



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Meeting Notes of the
Watershed Plan Steering Committee
October 2, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.
Brookview, Golden Valley

Meeting Attendees:

Committee Chair Kennedy; Commissioner Hauer; Alternate Commissioner Polzin; TAC Member Eckman; Community Member Loomis; Administrator Jester; Commission Engineers Chandler, Williams, and Johnson

1. WELCOME

Committee Chair Kennedy opened the meeting at approximately 8:35 a.m.

2. REVIEW SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING NOTES

There was a consensus that the meeting notes were appropriate as presented.

3. REVIEW PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS TRACKER

Staff briefly reviewed the progress of plan development.

4. FINALIZE GOALS FOR DEI-RELATED ISSUES

Administrator Jester presented some potential minor changes to DEIA-related issues and goals in the Education and Engagement category and Organizational Effectiveness category. The group agreed with the changes which were captured in the issues/goals table.

Finalizing these items means all issue statements and goals are complete across all four categories.

5. REVIEW PROPOSED STREET SWEEPING PRIORITIZATION STUDY

Commission Engineer Johnson reminded committee members that at the August Commission meeting, commissioners discussed the TAC's recommendation that the BCWMC perform a study on enhanced street sweeping. After some discussion, the Commission tabled the item to a future meeting. At the PSC meeting in September, the committee requested that this item come back to the committee with more information about how enhanced street sweeping could help the Commission meet its goals.

Engineer Johnson presented an updated presentation which included information on how a street sweeping study would help address specific goals in the 2025 Plan including goals to improve water quality in Medicine Lake, Lost Lake, and Northwood Lake. She outlined how other watersheds have utilized similar studies to help target certain areas for additional sweeping or share the costs of equipment upgrades – all to improve water quality outcomes. It was noted that although sweeping is typically used for removing leaves and other organic debris, this study could also provide information on how and if sweeping could reduce the amount of road salt washing into BCWMC waterbodies.

Engineer Johnson reviewed various aspects of the proposed study and noted it's similar to a subwatershed analysis or a feasibility study for a CIP project because it will help target activities and understand impacts and cost per pound of pollutant removal. TAC member Eckman noted that Golden Valley may also use study results to communicate the benefits of sweeping with the private sector. Engineer Johnson noted that optimization of street sweeping to benefit water quality is based on many things including location (impaired waters, existing BMPs, leaf canopy, etc.), timing, equipment, etc.

Committee member Polzin indicated her support for anything that can be started now that will support the work of immediate implementation.

There was consensus among committee members to recommend the street sweeping prioritization study to the Commission at the October meeting.

6. REVIEW DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION SECTION OUTLINE AND NARRATIVE EXCERPT

Commission Engineer Williams reviewed a piece of the implementation section of the plan that was drafted to show the potential format and layout of the section. He noted that this section uses the term “tools” to describe activities the commission, member cities, or partners would undertake to make progress toward the goals in the Plan. Engineer Williams noted that the current plan has 110 “policies” that are actually a mix of actions, policies, and requirements of cities.

There was discussion about the term “policy” in this Plan and how policies would be conveyed in the implementation section. Committee member Polzin noted that the Plan should clearly articulate who is doing what and what is required of whom. There was discussion about using the term “requirement” to clearly define when something is required.

There was also discussion about which documents drafted during Plan development would ultimately be available to the public in addition to the final Plan. It was noted that the internal draft documents are “messy” and wouldn’t be easy for a member of the public to follow the development process by reviewing them.

Engineer Williams noted that BWSR will require biennial reporting on progress toward goals which will be a useful and transparent way for commissioners and the public to track implementation progress.

There was discussion about incorporating an appendix with explicit roles and requirements.

There was consensus among committee members for staff to continue “filling in” the rest of the implementation section.

7. REVIEW LINEAR PROJECT STANDARDS AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL CHANGES

Staff gave a high-level overview of this issue and provided some history. There was discussion about the threshold of land disturbance or impervious surface amounts that trigger linear or non-linear project standards. A review of member cities’ thresholds requirements and how other cities and watersheds are handling linear projects is warranted.

Staff will bring this item back for a more thorough discussion at a future committee meeting.

8. REVIEW DRAFT MONITORING PLAN

Commission Engineer Johnson noted that the monitoring plan mirrors the current monitoring program. She noted that the TAC and Commission did a comprehensive assessment of the monitoring program in 2019 and that the current program and this plan reflects the outcomes of that assessment. It was noted that the term “early” (in the context of early detection of issues) should be better defined or described.

Engineer Johnson noted some updates to methodology by partners and that duplication of monitoring between jurisdictions is being avoided. There was discussion about adding more water quality monitoring dates to the monitoring schedule and the Wirth Lake monitoring program by MPRB and whether or not it follows the BCWMC regime. Staff will review that information and bring it back to the committee.

9. DISCUSS PLANS FOR NEXT COMMISSION WORKSHOP ON EDUCATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

GOALS – The committee agreed to aim for a workshop in conjunction with the November 20th Commission meeting.

10. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

